Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 /076 W
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R 011425Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4258

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 3444

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ET, PINS, SHUM SUBJ: PRISONER RELEASES

1. MAY 25 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED RELEASE OF 598
PRISONERS DETAINED ON VARIOUS CHARGES IN WOLLEGA REGION.
ON RELEASE, DETAINEES BRIEFED ON PROGRESS OF REVOLUTION,
"OBJECTIVE REALITY OF ETHIOPIA", AND ADVISED TO CEASE
OUTMODED PRACTICES AND TAILOR LIVES TO SELF-HELP SCHEME
BEING IMPLEMENTED IN SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA. MAY 31 ETHIOPIAN
HERALD REPORTED AMNESTY GRANTED BY PROVISIONAL MILITARY
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) TO 1,062 PRISONERS SERVING
VARIOUS PRISON TERMS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. PRISONERS
RELEASED IN ADDIS ABABA AND ALL REGIONS EXCEPT ERITREA.
PRISONERS BRIEFED BY PROVISIONAL OFFICE FOR
MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA) SIMILARLY TO WOLLEGA
RELEASES.

2. COMMENT: PRISONER RELEASES GIVEN MINIMAL COVERAGE IN MEDIA, WITH LITTLE EFFORT TO EXPLOIT PROPAGANDA POSSIBILITIES. IN PAST, RELEASES INVOLVING "POLITICAL" DETAINEES HAVE BEEN BETTER PUBLICIZED WHICH LEADS EMBASSY TO BELIEVE ABOVE RELEASES PROBABLY ONLY PETTY CRIMINALS. THERE NO EVIDENCE RECENT US HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ETHIOPIAN GOVT ACTIONS. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: AMNESTY, PRISONERS RELEASE

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Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
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